

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SSM-03 EB-08 COME-00 /087 W
-----001065 201846Z /43

R 192310Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5777
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 17485

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, PORG, IS, CS, MX
SUBJECT: RECENT MEXICAN-ISRAELI EXCHANGES

REF: MEXICO A-79

1. THE MEXICAN PRESS ON OCTOBER 12 ANNOUNCED THAT ISRAELI PRESIDENT EPHRAIM KATZIR WILL VISIT MEXICO NOVEMBER 21-27. HIS VISIT WILL BE PART OF A TOUR THAT INCLUDES COSTA RICA AND THE US.

2. THE MEXICAN PRESS LINKED THE VISIT TO THE LONG-STALLED PLANS TO BUILD AN ISRAELI AIRCRAFT ASSEMBLY PLANT IN THE YUCATAN STATE (REFAIR). HOWEVER, THE ISRAELI EMBASSY TOLD EMBOFF THAT IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE PLANT WILL BE DISCUSSED SINCE KATZIR, BECAUSE OF CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS, IS UNABLE TO DEAL WITH SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. ALTHOUGH KATZIR WILL TOUR THE RUINS OF THE YUCATAN AREA, HIS ENTIRE VISIT WILL BE OF A CEREMONIAL NATURE. THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO BUILD THE PLANT STILL EXISTS, BUT THE NECESSARY CAPITAL HAS NOT MATERIALIZED AND, ACCORDING TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY, CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED. ONE PRESS REPORT INDICATED THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE CONSIDERING COSTA RICA AS AN ALTERNATIVE SITE FOR THE "ARAVA" ASSEMBLY AND MAINTENANCE PLANT.

3. THE CEREMONIAL VISIT OF KATZIR COMES IN RETURN FOR THE VISIT OF FORMER MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA TO

ISRAEL TWO YEARS AGO. THE ISRAELI EMBASSY REPORTS THAT THE GOM PREFERRED "A BEGIN OR A DAYAN" BUT SETTLED FOR A CEREMONIAL VISIT WITH THE PROMISE THAT A "POLITICAL" VISIT WOULD BE CONSIDERED LATER.

4. IN RELATED EVENTS, THE ISRAELIS DESCRIBED THE MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS ROEL AND DAYAN IN NEW YORK (WHICH CAME AT ROEL'S INITIATIVE) AS "SUCCESSFUL". THE MAJOR OUTCOME OF SIGNIFICANCE IS THAT ROEL TOLD DAYAN THAT MEXICO COULD NO LONGER ABSTAIN IN THE UN ON VOTES AFFECTING ISRAEL WHEN MEXICAN FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES ARE AT STAKE. THE ISRAELI EMBASSY DESCRIBED THIS POSITION AS A MIXED BLESSING FOR ISRAEL--IN A VOTE ON EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN MEXICO WOULD ALWAYS VOTE WITH ISRAEL; IN A VOTE ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES MEXICO WOULD ALWAYS VOTE WITH THE ARABS.

5. ON THE MEXICAN INITIATIVE THAT "THIRD NATIONS" SHOULD BE PARTICIPANTS IN A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, THE ISRAELIS HAVE RECEIVED NO WORD FROM THE GOM ON THE PROPOSAL AND DO NOT TAKE THE PROPOSAL SERIOUSLY. LUCEY

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